

USAID programs to promote growth in Haiti's agricultural sector, past deforestation and a lack of education about how best to use the land for both short-term and long-term economic gain have slowed, almost to a standstill, any improvement in the agricultural sector.

Because of that, I firmly believe that the United States should continue efforts aimed at teaching Haitian farmers viable ways to farm—agriculture that produces food for the Haitian people now and conserves the land for production in the future by generations to come—agriculture that shows farmers how sustainable agriculture is really in their best economic interest, both in the short run and in the long run.

Efforts to work directly with farmers provide the greatest hope of preventing Haitians from abandoning agriculture for urban areas, such as Port-au-Prince. One of the biggest problems in Haiti is that so many people who are not making it in agriculture at all, who can't feed their family, understandably flee the countryside and go into one of Haiti's big cities, only to face worse poverty and create a more dire situation for their family. The only way that will stop is if Haiti can develop, with our assistance, with the assistance of the international community, a viable, sustainable agricultural program.

As I have said, I have visited Haiti eight or nine times. My wife and I have seen many of these programs and have seen that they do, in fact, work. But until sustainable improvements are made in the Haitian agricultural sector, I believe we have a responsibility—I believe we have an obligation—to ensure that humanitarian and food assistance continues to reach this tiny island nation and most particularly, most importantly, continues to reach these children.

That is why it is vital that we maintain current funding levels for the Public Law 480 title II assistance program for Haiti and other parts of the world as well. The simple fact is, this program is essential to the survival—literally the survival—of many thousands of Haitian children, especially those living in overcrowded orphanages.

There are currently 114 orphanages throughout Haiti receiving USAID funds and caring for a vast number of children. Quite candidly, these represent just a small fraction of the total number of orphanages on this island.

My wife Fran and I have traveled to Haiti repeatedly—eight times in the past 5 years. We visited many of these orphanages. We have seen the dire and dismal conditions. We have held the children and felt their malnourished bodies. But we have also seen what can happen with these children, and how so many dedicated people working in these orphanages can literally nurse these children back to life.

The orphanages of Haiti feed and take care of thousands upon thousands upon thousands of orphaned and aban-

doned children. The flow of desperate children into these orphanages is constant, and these facilities face the increasing challenge of accommodating these children.

It is these children who need our help the most. It is these children who are not capable of providing for themselves. That is why I am convinced that the Public Law 480 title II feeding program is absolutely essential. This low-cost program guarantees one meal per day to orphan children who otherwise would not receive any food at all.

The school feeding program is also essential because the title II assistance program—the offer of a free meal to these children, and the parents who send their children to school—helps keep Haitian children in school.

I again thank the committee for its support for and its commitment to Public Law 480 title II assistance for these children in Haiti.

I urge my colleagues on the conference committee—and throughout this year, and into the next—to continue their support for this program.

COMMENDING AMBASSADOR TIM CARNEY

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on another matter related to Haiti, I take this opportunity this evening to commend and thank my friend, Ambassador Tim Carney, for his 2-year service as U.S. Ambassador to Haiti. Tim and his wife Vicki proudly represented the United States. Day in and day out, they were committed to helping the people of Haiti overcome their dismal surroundings and their dire circumstances. Tim and Vicki worked to alleviate hunger and poverty throughout the island and encouraged practical economic reforms.

Through the support and cooperation of Ambassador Carney and Vicki, the conditions of several Haitian orphanages continue to improve. Although the Carneys' assignment in Haiti has concluded, their commitment continues today.

My wife Fran and I appreciate their friendship. We appreciate the support and help they have given to the children of Haiti. We look forward to continuing our work with them to help the children of Haiti.

TRIBUTE TO ERV NUTTER

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise this evening to celebrate the life of a great man from my home State of Ohio, a true renaissance man. I am talking about Erv Nutter, who died on January 6 of this year at the age of 85.

I am honored to have known Erv and am humbled to have the chance this evening to say just a few words about what his friendship has meant to me and my family, to my community, and to my State.

Ervin John Nutter was born in Hamilton, OH, on June 26, 1914, to parents he described as “a Kentucky school-

teacher and a Wyoming cowboy.” He was a running guard on the State championship Hamilton High School football team and later graduated from there. He attended Miami University in Oxford, OH, and then transferred to the University of Kentucky where, at the age of 21, he dropped out to take the Ohio examination for stationary engineers. Following that test, he became the youngest licensed engineer in Ohio, and then took a job at Proctor & Gamble in Cincinnati.

In 1943, Erv returned to the University of Kentucky to earn his degree in mechanical engineering. After graduation, he took a job in the engineering division of the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where he was put in charge of aircraft environmental testing.

Then in 1951, Erv Nutter founded the Elano Corporation, which fabricates metal parts for jet engines. He started the business in a Greene County, OH, garage. Elano grew and grew, and it grew ultimately into a multimillion-dollar business that has influenced aviation worldwide, through precision forming and bending of tubular assemblies for fuel, and lubrication and hydraulic systems for jet aircraft and missiles.

I met Erv Nutter for the first time in 1973. I was right out of law school, on my first job, as an assistant county prosecutor in Greene County. I remember Sheriff Russell Bradley and then-county prosecutor Nick Carrera, and I were conducting a major drug investigation. It was going well. The only problem was, we had run out of money.

So we went to some people in the community. One of the first people we went to was Erv Nutter. To keep that investigation going, we simply had to have some financial assistance. So we asked Erv if he would help. Without any hesitation, as Erv would always do—he didn't ask anything—he just said: Sure. If you boys think it's a good idea, if you think we need to do it, I'll do it.

When it came to his community, Erv was always ready to lend a hand, whether with his financial resources or his time and energy. That was just Erv Nutter.

Erv has been a role model for so many people throughout the years. Through his kindness and extreme generosity, he has taught invaluable lessons, such as the importance of giving back to our communities, the importance of building and trusting our neighbors, and the economic future of our villages and our cities.

Through the years, he donated millions of dollars to the University of Kentucky and Wright State University. Today, two buildings at the Lexington campus bear Erv's name, as does Wright State University's indoor athletic complex.

Erv Nutter was a blunt man. He was an open man. He was a man who would tell you what he thought, never afraid in any way to express his convictions or his strong beliefs.

That is one of the things that made Erv Nutter so endearing. It has been said that the greatness of a man can be measured by the extent and the breadth of his interests and how he acts on those interests to make a difference in this world. Surely by that test, Erv Nutter was a great man. He was so passionate about his interests, and what interests he had: agriculture, technology, wild game conservation, education, sports, history, aviation, or working for a better government. Whatever Erv was interested in, he cared passionately about and he acted upon. And in each area, he made a difference. Sure, he helped financially but, more importantly, Erv gave his time and he gave his energy. He was a man of great passion.

In 1981, Erv Nutter was named Greene County Man of the Year. He served as business chairman of the American Cancer Society, chairman of the Fellow's Committee at the University of Kentucky, member of the President's Club at both Ohio State and Wright State University, past president and trustee of the Aviation Hall of Fame—one of his great passions and his wonderful wife, Zoe Dell's great passions; the work with Zoe Dell continues to this day—as former chairman of the Ohio Republican Finance Committee, and former chairman of the Beavercreek Zoning Commission.

In 1995, at the age of 80, Erv was inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, an honor for outstanding contributions and exceptional achievements begun or continued after the age of 60. Erv always was there for our community. Erv always was there for our State. In all that he did, he made a positive difference. Erv Nutter was a remarkable person, a person who affected countless lives for the better. His family knows that probably better than anyone else because there were so many things Erv Nutter did that he didn't tell anybody about. He just was there to be supportive and to make a difference. He just quietly helped out whenever his community asked. And many times when his community didn't ask, he did it anyway.

The only thing Erv wanted was to make the world a better place for his children, his grandchildren, and for all of us. Erv Nutter took great pleasure in sharing his personal success with the whole community. I was particularly struck by Erv's humility. I remember that he once told the Xenia Daily Gazette he was the luckiest man in the world. He was lucky because he had had the opportunity to do so many things he had never, ever, in his wildest dreams, thought he would be able to do. He told the paper:

No one can achieve success by himself. I think this is one of the most important things for people to remember today.

Erv didn't seek credit. Rather, he appreciated his success and understood that his community was a great part of that success. We all admired Erv Nutter. We all respected him.

As Chesterton once said:

Great men take up great space, even when they are gone.

Erv Nutter will continue to take up great space on this Earth, not just in buildings but in lives touched and lives changed. Erv Nutter will continue to live on through the great work he has done. He also will live through his wonderful family: his wife Zoe Dell, Joe, Bob and Mary, Ken and Melinda, Katie and Jonathan.

We pay tribute to Erv tonight for what he has meant to our community.

ROCCO SCOTTI—A GREAT AMERICAN

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise to recognize tonight Rocco Scotti, a talented and patriotic singer from my home State of Ohio, who is a fixture in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, northeast Ohio, a fixture at Cleveland Indians baseball games and just about any public event in our community that matters.

Rocco, because of the countless times he has sung our national anthem at local, national, and international events, has truly earned the title of "Star-Spangled Banner Singer of the Millennium."

Rocco, an Italian American whose family is from Italy's east coast, grew up in Cleveland and started his vocal training in opera. He first performed the national anthem publicly in 1974 at an Indians-Orioles game.

Since that time, he has become a regularly featured national anthem singer for both American and National League baseball games, games played in Cincinnati, Cleveland, New York, for the Baltimore Orioles, Oakland A's, Kansas City Royals, Toronto Blue Jays, LA Dodgers. The list goes on and on. Rocco has also had the honor of performing the national anthem for Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan.

Rocco's list of accomplishments doesn't end there. He was awarded the United States civilian Purple Heart for inspiring patriotism for his exceptional performance of the national anthem, and he has performed the anthem on national television for events such as the NBC game of the week, an American League playoff game, the 1981 All Star game, and countless other televised sporting events. Dubbed by People's magazine as one of the best anthem singers in America, he is the first singer to perform the national anthem for the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. He is a featured singer for the Indians, Cleveland Cavaliers, and Cleveland Force, and he is the permanent singer of the anthem for the Football Hall of Fame ceremonies in Canton, OH.

While Rocco is most known for his rendition of the national anthem, he is also a featured singer of other nations' anthems. He has sung the Polish national anthem for Polish boxing team matches, the Hungarian national an-

them for Hungarian basketball games, the Italian national anthem for Italian soccer team contests, and the Israeli national anthem for the appearance of the Assistant Prime Minister of Israel in Cleveland.

Needless to say, Rocco Scotti is an American icon. His voice, indeed, is a national treasure. What impresses me most about Rocco isn't so much his beautiful voice, although it is beautiful, but his amazing attitude about his heritage, his life here in this great country. Rocco said the following to me once:

I am very, very proud that with my Italian heritage, God has given me the honor of performing our country's greatest and most meaningful song.

For that kind of patriotism, love of country, I wish to say thank you to Rocco. I am proud to call him the Star-Spangled Banner Singer of the Millennium.

TRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL DANIEL "CHAPPIE" JAMES AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 776

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I would like to honor a great volunteer organization from my home state of Ohio—The General Daniel "Chappie" James American Legion Auxiliary Unit 776. Based in the city of Dayton, this organization and its members were recognized recently by USA Weekend magazine for their participation in the "Ninth Annual Make a Difference Day," which is the largest national day of helping and volunteerism.

To be recognized by USA Weekend, an organization must demonstrate great efforts and achievements in the areas of volunteerism and community service. The General Daniel "Chappie" James American Legion Auxiliary Unit 776 certainly has done that. One of its members, Mrs. Ola Matthews, heard that foster children around the Dayton community must carry their belongings through the foster care system in plastic trash bags. This worried her greatly. So, she set about to help these children. Under her leadership, the members of Unit 776 conducted fundraisers to buy luggage and collected luggage from community donors. On October 23, 1999, the members of Unit 776 delivered the fruits of their effort—over 1,000 pieces of luggage, plus toiletries, underclothes, and baby supplies—to the Montgomery County Children's Services in Dayton. This is a remarkable achievement and one demonstrating great selflessness and generosity. It is actions like these—an organization helping those in its community—that makes Dayton such a great city.

Mr. President, one young member of this organization, in particular, has made outstanding contributions to her community. Shatoya Hill, who has been involved in Unit 776 most her life,